UNSEEN HANDS

By Robert Orr Chipperfield

A Bewildering Detective Story

SYNOPSIS.

brusquely. The moment of hesitation had been too significant. "I mean

-the voice the night Mrs. Lorne

shifted his weight suddenly, but Odell merely nodded.

We all knew by then that the misknow; for she was a-a rare levely lady, sir, and a kind, good mistress. just over Mr. Julian's; and there was storerooms. I stayed up till mid-

night; so there wasn't any sound ex- 'snow.' " hen a thin little thread of light playing cards with him." came in under my door and traveled light up there in our quarters at that hour; but I jumped out of bed get there," ordered Odell.

The butler paused, and drawing a handkerchief from his pocket he we'll need him; Gene Chalmers thinks wiped his pallid face, down which the he has given Porter the slip, and he

Peters shuddered. have sat there for a good twenty | "Look back over your shoulder," h seemed to be upon the verge of col-

ber aloud, "God help me, I hear it

After a light tap the door had opened, and the plain-clothes detective who had been sent to bring in the said the liquor was stored.

"He thereof on the liquor was stored."

phoned up to his rooms and some one to look on one of the hanging shelves that were full of preserve lars and find a glass." Porter hesitated. "I clothes, a Norfolk hunting suit and world to make a break for it then; for it; but I wouldn't be a party to

stand who had driven him to the staknew Drew and had often driven him levil of a hurry to eatch his train this morning. It looked straight enough to me."

before that. What was it that first Odell. "It seems as though you had made you think there was something the right dope; Drew must have had word from that Chalmers lad and beaten it, and that adds more color jaw dropped. "I thought nobody in this thing he would have stuck heard it but me. You mean the voice around and played the friend of the family and braved it out."

I won't call it a day until I have," he I'll go back to the Meade house and

He had started for the door when the telephone on the captain's desk whirred and instinctively he waited. "Yes .- Who? -- Oh, it's you, is it Porter? . . . The sergeant? Yes

phoning from?

Marcelle and Jane and Gerda had talking from the booth in Volkert's drug store over on Third Avenue; you "Of course, Miss Nan and Mr. Julian know the place, we had him up and Mr. Gene didn't go to hed all couple of months ago for selling

the hour, and now and then a snore manded the exasperated Odell. "I from Marcelle across the hall. It was left you to watch Gene Chalmers. after 4 o'clock-almost 5, I guess- The last I heard of you you were

n under my door and traveled "Yes, and he rooked me," Porter re-the floor and then went out torted. "I'm trailing him now. He's I couldn't believe my eyes, across the street in a tailor's shop ere hadn't been the sound of next the corner; it was all closed footfall outside and I couldn't see and dark, but he let himself in with

and opened my door acrack very comes out shadow him, but phone back here to headquarters the first "I couldn't see anything, not a ray chance you get so that I can follow "Sure, sergeant,"

the air, and there-there wasn't any- ous click of two receivers, and Odell

"Can I have Miller? I've a hunch eat had started. He was staring is over on Third Avenue in some joint wide-eyed into space, and his breath that has a shop in front for a blind.

"I feel as if it was calling down a sion he and Miller taxied swiftly up-curse on me to repeat it, sir; but I'll town, dismissing the car a block from never forget it to the longest day I their destination. Most of the shops It said: 'The first one gone! were closed; but the avenue snall they all go, one by one" still brightly lighted, and as they to tell me that poor Mrs. Lorne figure leaning nonchalantly against

came nor did that light the benefit of any chance passer-by,

morning they told Arme that Mrs. tobacconist's? That's the joint, Gene Chalmers hasn't come out yet and no

"What is that narrow open spacaround the corner on the side street, per, but clear and full of a horrid sort of joy as if the Thing, whatever it was, was gloating over what had barrened it was, was gloating over what had barrened it was to me. Miller, go and see if it runs barrened it is not being the following the street. happened, 1-1 haven't been the same back of the tailor's shop and if there is a door opening on it. Look for

or just plain lies?" he asked when the about as slick as they come. I catessea next door had stacked up in the door had closed behind the limp. thought at first that he was too the alley; it was lucky I did, for shambling form.

"Neither," Odell replied slowly. "I into his room; but he seemed so anx- looking in and then turned and cam surprised to learn that lous to tell me all about how that straight toward me. I thought he had he was telling the straight truth."
"Truth" Captain Levis exploded before and ready to offer a hundred back door of the tailor's shop and "Are you going to tell me next that different suggestions that he threw you believe in chooses, Barry Odell?" me off the track; and boy! how he minute once more. The door opened can play cards! Not that I took my and he went in, and I beat it back and I'm going to make it my busi- hand off my number for a minute here to you." ness to find it." the detective re-until just at the last," he added "All right. Go over and watch the sponded gravely. "I think it will hastily. "But you yourself might front door of the shop and if any one

plunged in their first numbing shock that very thing; but you admit come down to report and I let you alone "Well, it sounds fishy to me," the to handle the case your own way.

key which the old man had given nim. I had my suspicions as to how fragments of his speech reached going to start an investigation. Pil he had come by that key; but it was let him sleep over it tonight, but in the morning Pil put him through the steps and a flat door bolted on the steps and a flat door bolted on the where to, sir? There's still difficulty where to, sir? There's still difficulty where to, sir?

"He's not there, sir. When I asked at the desk for Mr. Drew the clerk phoned up to his rooms and some one of the hanging shelves and then back at the speaker with a sent me'up' with a hellboy. The valet, suppose I was a fool, but I never "I've helped in the other thing, and suspected he had a chance in the I'll admit that you've paid me well

slam. I groped my way to it, but it was fastened by a spring lock and by the time I found the switch i the wall and turned on the lights

"There must have been a second tion-the Grand Central it was. He light switch in the stogeroom and second door leading up into the yard before, and he said that he was in a and the kid had evidently planned his getaway ahead, for he's wearing a cloth cap, which I guess he had been carrying folded up in an inside pocket since before I came on the job. I ran out of the house, found Blake on guard at the corner, and he told me young Chalmers had come out of the tradesmen's entrance on the side street and started due east

with Shaw trailing him. "I borrowed Blake's hat and hot footed it after them, picking up at Third Avenue in time to relieve Shaw just as Gene was boarding a surface

front of Bud Westley's old poolroe and I grabbed it and trailed the car The kid couldn't have had a suspicion that he was being shadowed; for he got out at this corner and made straight for that shop over there without even looking around."

"You were an ass to be taken in like that, Porter, but perhaps it is just as well," Odell commented, "Our rather do a stretch than go to the glided away into the shadows, reap esperate to risk such a move whe he knew that the house was guarded inside and out. I wonder why Miller hasn't come back? It doesn't look good to me."

"Look!" Porter exclaimed, touching has walked twice past the mouth of the shop," that alley; there he goes in! Think we had better trail along?"

waited in silence, and at length Mil- self strode over to the window. ler appeared from the shadows of Odell and Porter had barely time avenue towards them.

"No. It ends in a blank wall midare doors opening on it from all the hops as far as it reaches, and winfastened and covered with a shade; but the glass in the lower sash of that window is broken by, what looks like a bullet-hole, and the shade is ripped. I ought to have come back and reported at once, I suppose; but I put my eye to that hole and I thought you would want to know that was going on in there, A young that was going on in there, A young that was going on in there, A young that was going on in the lighted by the sheer audacity of the side. "The aliey is clear, and we will stop the sheer audacity of the side. "The aliey is clear, and we man who stood in the lighted door-people already burdened with grief and the game is up:"

"I've been waiting for you, Sergeant of the others. Come in and we will have a little talk."

For a moment Odell was dumb-founded by the sheer audacity of the side. "The aliey is clear, and we man who stood in the lighted door-people already burdened with grief and the game is up:"

"I've been waiting for you, Sergeant of the others. Come in and we will have a little talk."

For a moment Odell was dumb-founded by the sheer audacity of the man who stood in the lighted door-people already burdened with grief and the game is up:"

"I've been waiting for you, Sergeant of the others. Come in and we will have a little talk."

For a moment Odell was dumb-founded by the sheer audacity of the man who stood in the lighted door-people already burdened with grief and the game is up:"

"I've been waiting for you, Sergeant of the others. Come in and we will have a little talk."

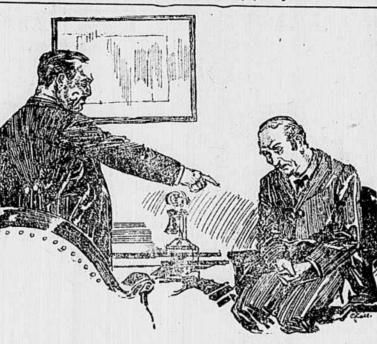
For a moment Odell was dumb-founded by the sheer audacity of the man who stood in the lighted door-people already burdened with grief and the game is up:"

"I've been waiting for you, Sergeant of the others. Come in and we will have a matter which would in no way in-alleady the others. Come in and we will have a matter which would in the others. Come in and we will have a matter which would in the others. Come in and we will have a matter which would the others. Come in and we will have a matter which would the others. Come in and we will have a matter w

his voice so that I could hear every You can't bluff me with any more of that bunk, Drew, he said. I know you can send me up, but you kept your letters, they were the only protection I had! I was a sucker and you bled me white, but don't forge I've got a come-back.' The other on growled something I couldn't hear, and then the kid broke in again. 'Not i chance! I don't know whether I g away with it tonight or not, but it the last; and if you don't want t Peters suddenly any lir its in the rear and be careful have to answer some embarrassing is hands and sobquestions you'll clear out until th Realizing that nothing further could be gotten from the nerveracked man that night the chief at a wised up that chap from headquar

"I heard footsteps coming down th

spoke rapidly in an indistinguishable



"How did you know, sir !" Peter's jaw dropped.

the door leading into the shop opened,

"We're caught!" he eried wildly. Either Sims or I must have been his superior's arm. "That man, He walking up and down in front of

Farley Drew finished up with a fero-"No. Give Miller a chance. If he clous oath; but the other, whom Gene gets in any trouble he'll blow his man aside and sprang through the three of the investigation going on

the alleyway and hastened across the to conceal themselves behind the mers had had plenty of time to dispickle tubs which Miller had men-"Did you see that man?" he asked, tioned when the shade was pulled I had a narrow squeak, I can tell up, the window opened, and the sleek ou. That was Sims, Farley Drew's head of Farley Drew appeared cautiously reconnoitering.
"Nobody here." The held withdrew

time?" Odell demanded. "Does that and the window slammed. Odell alley extend through the block?" reached his point of vantage once reached his point of vantage once way, back of that butcher shop, I closing the connecting door carefully should say," Miller responded. There

"It's the bull who came to your rooms an hour or so ago looking for you." The valet's tone was high dows, too; but the back room of the tailor's is the only one lighted up.

The door was locked and the window lowed me here for I made sure that but the glass in the lower sash of no one was behind me when I ducked

smooth-faced, blond-haired that was sitting at a table—I guessed that was leave that flatfoot to cool his heels on the pavement till morning. Go his dinner-coat, coolly smiling down older man, nearly forty, I judge, who back to my rooms and stay there at him. Then he shrugged and reooked-like a dissipated swell.
"He talked so low that I couldn't tear what he said, but he seemed to hear what he said, but he seemed to hight if you are interrogated again.

His voice sank once more to scarcely audible murmur, and Odell whispered hurriedly to Porter;

"Shadow Gene. Don't leave him" cut of your sight for a minute. 1'll

From their hiding-place they saw standing." ims emerge cautiously from the

left, but hugging the side of the ouses he crent slowly to the street

"Go on, Porter," Odell ordered. "If eadquarters at once." Without a word the

peared at the lighted mouth of the Before the older man could speak alley, and vanished again in the wake of his subject.

Five more minutes passed, ther the departure of the third man from taken place there; but Gene Chal Odell could not be sure. If Drew had indeed a guilty knowledge of the his servant was ignorant of it. The a stretch than go to the chair" had been too spontaneous and too frankcapable of potential murder.

The ten minutes doubled in length and just as Odell emerged from behind the heap of tubs determined to risk another peep through the win-

"Thanks, I confess that at the present moment nothing would give ne greater pleasure than to accept this invitation of yours, Mr. Drew."

to a mutually satisfactory under-

door, peer up and down the alley, and shut and with a single motion turndart off to the side street. A long ed the key and thrust it into his five minutes passed and then Gene pocket. The detective gave no sign that the guilty person would be the appeared, closing the door behind that he had observed the act, even im. He looked neither to right nor when Drew walked deliberately and locked it also. Instead he stood necessarily directly." nesitated a moment, and then headed gazing about him with frank inter-

e goes back to the house phone had supposed from his restricted view of it through the aperture in the torn operative window-shade. The sideboard and



His unexpected bost threw wide the door and stepped back for Odell to

bookcase which flanked the cracked, while Drew blew a series of smoke tion without thinking what I was imitation-marble mantel were of cheap, highly polished light oak, as were the center table and chairs. wide, comfortable-looking couch stood against the opposite wall, and from behind the half-drawn curtain in the corner the end of a small gas stove was visible, with pots and pans hanging beneath a shelf upon which china and canned goods were stacked indiscriminately.

Evidently this room was more than a rendezvous; it was a complete apartment in itself in which one could telephone message, nothing but my live indefinitely without ald or intererence from the outside world.

"Of course this is not the Belienonde Annex," Drew remarked with an ironically deprecatory air as if reading the other's thoughts. "It has lts uses, however. Sit down, ser geant. Will you smoke?"

Odell shook his head, but pulled chair up to the table and scated himself. Drew had assumed the upper hand in opening the interview, and the detective was well content to leave the situation for the time being in the other's control. He was curicus to learn the motive back of his host's attitude. Drew had spoker of a "mutually satisfactory understanding." That could only mean bargain, a compromise or attempted bribery. Odell believed the man bethe latter; yet what compromise coulvery fact that he sought to estab ent situation, as he must realize.

Drew, meanwhile, had taken a box board, selected one, and lighted it

Odell looked up and waited for him

"Sergeant," he began at length. man of not only common sense but intelligence; if I did not, I should crimes and the strongest kind of cir-slightly ironic self again; Odel intelligence; if I did not, I should crimes and the strongest kind of cir-slightly ironic self again; Odel intelligence; if I did not, I should crimes and the strongest kind of cir-slightly ironic self again; Odel intelligence; if I did not, I should crimes and the strongest kind of cir-slightly ironic self again; Odel intelligence; if I did not, I should crimes and the strongest kind of cir-slightly ironic self again; Odel intelligence; if I did not, I should crimes and the strongest kind of cir-slightly ironic self again; Odel intelligence; if I did not, I should crimes and the strongest kind of cir-slightly ironic self again; Odel intelligence; if I did not, I should crimes and the strongest kind of cir-slightly ironic self again; Odel intelligence; if I did not, I should crimes and the strongest kind of cir-slightly ironic self again; Odel intelligence; if I did not, I should crimes and the strongest kind of cir-slightly ironic self again; Odel intelligence; if I did not, I should crimes and the strongest kind of cir-slightly ironic self again; Odel intelligence; if I did not intelligence is the strongest kind of cir-slightly ironic self again; Odel intelligence is the strongest kind of cir-slightly ironic self-again; Odel intelligence is the strongest kind of cir-slightly ironic self-again; Odel intelligence is the strongest kind of cir-slightly ironic self-again; Odel intelligence is the strongest kind of cir-slightly ironic self-again; Odel intelligence is the strongest kind of cir-slightly ironic self-again; Odel intelligence is the strongest kind of cir-slightly ironic self-again; Odel intelligence is the strongest kind of cir-slightly ironic self-again; Odel intelligence is the strongest kind of cir-slightly ironic self-again; Odel intelligence is the strongest kind of cir-slightly ironic self-again; Odel intelligence is the strongest kind of cir-slightly ironic s I understand it, Mr. Lorne sent for of their perpetrator, would you not you through the mediation of his attorney to look into the coincidence of the deaths and other recent acci home. That, of course, is no concern your investigation, you should encounter evidence of some-er-irregon your case, what would you do?" "Irregularity?" Odell repeated.

another branch of the police ser-"If I discovered evidence of an other and separate crime unconnected

with the matter now under investiga-His unexpected host threw wide the door and stepped back for it would depend largely upon the nature of the crime and who ultimately quoted a sentence or two from it b benefited by it."

sonal argument.

"Ultimately, pernaps, but not

A quick flash doesn't it?" of memory had recalled the note which Odell himself had laid before his chief an hour before, and with struction. But you don't believe it his chief an hour before, and with structure it a sudden inkling of the possible yourself, sergeant; you are trying to Granted that I was bluffing an Granted that I was bluffing and the possible yourself, sergeant; you are trying to Granted that I was bluffing and the possible yourself, sergeant; you are trying to Granted that I was bluffing and the possible yourself, sergeant; you are trying to Granted that I was bluffing and the possible yourself, sergeant; you are trying to Granted that I was bluffing and the possible yourself. of the family were placed in a compromising position by an outsider and forced into crime for the imme- nietting murder?" diate benefit of that outsider, in or der to gain immunity for himself, would cease to be a purely family very likely bring shame and unhap-piness and possibly incarceration to the instigator. Are you entirely dission, Mr. Drew?"

He smiled steadily into the dark. smoldering eyes across the table, and Drew forced a sickly grimace in re-turn, but the fingers holding his cigar twitched murderously.

even. "I confess I am disappointed to be a man of independent thought and action, not hidebound like the majority of your confreres. I have been speaking from a purely altru-istic point of view. I wished to spare a heart-broken, and panic-stricker one young person from an unmerited "And in saving the family from

further annoyance incidentally pro-tect the real criminal, who had used the young person you mention as a what he himself had instigated?" ing face. "Let him go scot free with the extortion he had practiced upon one member of the family in order to keep from the rest a knowledge of the truth? You are not serious, Mr. Drew. The young person may should be, for him to extricate himposed he may be in considerably bounds of the case I am investigat-ing, I think that I should find myself compelled to take a hand,"

rings thoughtfully in the air. "So Gene lied," he said at last. "He told me that he had destroyed that note. You have it in your possession,

"No. I turned it in to my chief to night to be brought to the attention of the bureau which it would ordinarily concern if I say the word. Odell watched the other's face nar-

request in person would enable me to regain possession of it." "But you could regain it?" The eagerness in Drew's tones was unre-

"Could anything induce you to do bribery, sergeant. When two men each possess something that the other gent ic is sometimes possible to ar range an amicable trade."

The compromise! It had come a last. Odell turn & upon the other a gaze of mild inquiry.

"If I am in need of anything at least to the extent of compounding a felony in order to obtain it, I am un aware of the fact," he said blandly Mr. Drew?" "You are young and ambitious. 1

think you have a real love for your work, an immense enthusiasm, and ilies." you are impatient to reach the top of the ladder. I've seen life. This case you are working on promises to be torted smoothly. "Having called you the biggest thing that New York has bluff, sergeant, it seems to me that seen for years. Can you deny that we are back at the starting point board, selected one, and listing it seen for years. Can you deny that we are back at the starting point of leisurely before he strolled over to for the sake of your career alone it the chair across the table from his guest and seated himself.

Seen for years. Can you deny that we are back at the starting point of the sake of your career alone it my proposition. Arrest me if you like; I admit it would ruin me as fair as New York society goes, but I'll as New York soci stroyed in my presence and to receive for yours, unless you join the arm with a speculative eye on the glow. Your assurance that it and the matter of discredited petty officials who oper to which it pertains shall be offi- private detective agencies and starve young friend, Gene Chalmers, has cially forgotten. If in return for this Bring me the note, call it square told me tonight, I believe you to be a I furnish you with the motive for and I'll make your career." man of not only common sense but this series of crimes and attempted

XXIII.

AM not so sure." Odell de-murred, "I've only been on the ase a little more than twelve hours, clung to it only because no other you know; and A still have hopes. As to the note, you may remember I presented itself. would be turned over to the bureau which it would ordinarily concern if I said the word. I have not said the word, for I am not sure yet that it say rather that you might unearth concerns any bureau other than

> "But you-you are a member of the homicide squad!" Drew stammered, and the stub of his eigar slipped un oticed from his fingers.

"Exactly. I am not sure that tha note has not a direct bearing on the nurders I am investigating."

"You're mad, I tell you, man! Drew sprang from his chair. "You know less than I thought of what that note refers to if you imagine such a ridiculously far-fetched

The detective paused in ber the wording of the note and comseeming reflection. "That is rather a pare it with the events of the last stoop to bargain with this parasite month," Odell remarked quietly. "I and thereby tacitly admit his inabil-"I trust that you will heve no realess your man or mine crosses Third Avenue. Get behind the tubs quick! They're coming out?"

"I trust that you will heve no realess penefited by it."

Farlew Drew's eyes narrowed, but be a hitch, and the next one will if you a preliminary stage, and he restored a preliminary stage, and he propounding an abstruse and impersion by the 6th or you know where he compromise with the man before the compromise with the co "If the crime, as you call it, were the first one will send you.' I be for gain and happened to be com- lieve that it is it word for word, Mr. The silence in the room had remitted by a member of the family Drew. When you consider that Mrs. one to profit ultimately, would it 6th of the month was the date of not?" note quite another significance,

> "My God!" Drew retreated a step or two. "What a devilish misconbluff me. Do you thank I would be enough of an ass to write so openly and sign my name to it if I were

district attorney had got through exmatter, and its investigation would plaining it to them," responded I have decided to reject or accep Odell. "You know Hutchins' reputa- your proposition," tion, don't you, Mr. Drew? They say "An armistice." Drew threw back he can get a conviction on less evidence than any one else who has ever been in office. It may be that the made Odell eye him sharply. A swift note, together with a few other and inexplicable change seemed things which we have against you, have come over the man, and where are not sufficient to send you to the he spoke again it was with a not chair, but they are strong enough of irresistible amusement in hi evidence to indict you and put you voice. "You fancy that you will no on trial."

hoarsely, gripping the back of his investigation on your own account chair as he stood behind it until it until you are assured that you are

rot, and you know it; but I might as it stands open. When you decide a. well go to the chair as through the you ultimately must notoriety and indignity of arrest en proposition communicate with m; such a hideous charge! It would be man at the Bellemonde Annex and a frame-up! You can't do it, Odell; I will get in touch with you." you shan't! You'll never leave this room alive to put it over on me

"Steady there, Drew," the detective advised coolly, for the other's voice had risen and his features were working convulsively. your hand off your number; the chief show up he will act on it at once. panied me here, and one saw me enter this room. The other is waiting outside for me to rejoin him; if J do not do so within a certain specified time he has his instructions as to hew to proceed." A measure of self-control had re-

if the affair did not come within the turned to Drew and he laughed short

"I'm not a murderer nor even a potential one, as you know yourself

saying. I am not likely to place my self in jeopardy by eliminating an obscure member of the police force! He caught himself up abruptly as it realizing that he had made a false move, and added in haste: "I was foolish to permit myself to become excited over a mere bluff; I should have grasped the fact at once that neither you ner your chief would make laughing-stocks of yourselves by attempting to bring me to trial on such a charge and with such evidence! It would be a farce, a patent frame-up, and you would be lucky if you were merely dismissed from the force without having further action taken against you!"

Odell could not help but admire the cleverness with which his opponent I mean nothing so crude as had turned the tables, and he smiled

> "Granted. Still"-the smile faded and his jaw set sternly-"an arrest on suspicion, with due publicity, includteresting reading to your circle el acquaintances, but would prevent your making others among the un sophisticated sciens of wealthy fam-

"Perhaps, but Gene is not in a po sition to offer explanations," Drew re-I merely wish to see it de- wide for my activities, although no

ment before replying. In the ligh of the revelation which had come to him since entering the room his theory, weak and scarcely tenable as he had known it in his heart to be, had been utterly demolished; and the detective realized that he ha possible explanation of the myster;

Could Farley Drew furnish him with the information of which he to supply the motive for this sees ngly purposeless series of crimes? He and spoken, too, of strong circum stantial evidence of the identity o heir perpetrator; if he were

bluffing in his turn, would it not be well to agree to his terms? The note in itself would not be a necessary factor in his prosecution or separate charge with Gene's tes timony available; and it appeared extremely unlikely that any charge would be brought. On the other hand Odell's repugnance rose against en tering into any traffic with this so cial leech; and in a swift revulsion from momentary discouragement hi

elf-confidence returned. What could Drew know which he very opportunity lay before him

him. mained unbroken, and Odell was so deeply engrossed in his meditation look of suspense which crept gradually over the face of his host. The mournful yowl of a cat in the alle; verie, and he straightened in hi chair.

"You have stated the case with

starting with the premise that you are not and that you really can sup ply the information you claim, I se of the bargain you propose. I will what a jury would decide after the at least guarantee that no officia

need the information which I can "You can't de that!" Drew cried give you? You mean to continue th creaked a warning.

"This talk of a conviction is all sergeant. I've made the offer an up against a blank wall? Very well

He rose and unlocking the door leading into the alley he opened i and stepped aside.

"We have come to an understand ing even though it may not be pro ductive of immediate results, and the night is no longer young. wish to appear inhospitable, but fear that your bodyguard in fron of the shop may become concerned for your safety."

Odell laughed.

"An armistice then, Mr. Drew." He nodded in response to the other half-mocking bow as he passed through the door. "In spite of you convictions I may be able to strug gle along without agreeing to you terms, so don't count on hearing fron me too soon."

For a moment there was silence sergeant. I spon in sheer despera- (To Be Continued Next Sunday.)

"What do you make of it? Hysteria willie-boy, but I had the wrong dope: a pile of pickle-tubs that the del

help mightily in the solution of the have been taken in by the way he whole problem to learn just what it worked that, sergeant."

hastily, But you yourself might comes out stop them and blow your whole problem to learn just what it worked that, sergeant." whole problem to learn just what it worked that, sergeant."

chief asserted. "If it were the mur-there why should be go wandering stip? derer why should be go wandering slip? around the house with a light talking to himself; Peters story is thin,
too. The atmosphere of the nouse

The cellar, but he had a duplicate

"It was after dinner and he wanted through the ragged hole in the snade.

Only two men were visible in the room, the older one whom Miller had described and a stranger. The latdidn't seem to get on his nerves to the cellar, but he had a duplicate the extent of making him sneak away from it until he knew we were nim. I had my suspicions as to how odell's ears. going to start an investigation. Pil he had come by that key; but it was

(Continued From Last Sunday.)

The captain's chair creaked as he

tress couldn't live, for Jane had heard one of the doctors, the last and we were all upset, as you migat nothing above me but the trunk and the receiver. and then Miss Meade told me to go to bed; but I couldn't sleep, though fairly yelped with excitement.

my door; but I heard a voice that seemed to come from somewhere in There came the almost simultane

I feel as if it was calling down a

That was all, but it started me shak-approached the drug store they could ing like a leaf, and I didn't need any distinguish. Porter's, short, stocky somehow and got to the side of my As they neared him he turned and bed and sat down, straining my ears greeted them boisterously in the to listen for the sound of a footstep; tongue language of the quarter for show under my door again. I must then drew them around the corner.

Farley Drew stood upon the threshold with failure written on his counternance.

"He turned on the electric light by a switch in the wall near the staircase, took a key from his pocket."

The older man leaned forward and staircase, took a key from his pocket.

derstood that Drew would not be I heard the door of the storerood "Is that all you got?" the chief sked disgustedly. the chauffeur outside at the taxi again Shaw blew his whistle outside

"All right: that'll do." As the door

he's here. Odell sprang forward and seized

"Is that you, sergeant?"

"What are you doing there?" de-

"Keep your eye on that shop till I

With the readily accorded permis-

I shut my door the lamppost at the curb.

minutes, for finally the clock in the church outside struck 5; and in the shop between the delicatessen and the

"I thought that Gene was just a side street then, and ducked behin

"Possibly," Odell assented dryly, he'll be along here somewhere," Odell the house at the moment the family, "I tried to get word to you before turned to Porter. or the rest of the family, were I left the house to warn you against have a look at what is doing in that

about passports. . . . Yes, I can get the baggage out providing they are not watching

bird to away with him, and he un-